

LONG TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY

JOINT TASK FORCE

Meeting Notes

August 23, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDEES

NAME	AGENCY & INFORMATION	NAME	AGENCY & INFORMATION
Rocky Milliman	ADECA LTCR	Corlis Floyd	ADECA LTCR
William (Bill) Lokey	Witt Associates	Amanda Phan	Witt Associates
Ken Hollingsworth	ADECA Workforce Investment	Liz Cochran	ADECA Energy Division
Mike Shafer	CAPNA (arrived late due to traffic jam on interstate)	Elizabeth Brown	AL Historical Commission
Jack Green	CAPNA (arrived late due to traffic jam on interstate)	Benny Harris	AEMA
Via telephone:			
Jim Corcoran	FEMA (LTCR Branch Director)	Kerry Craft	Habitat – Gulf Coast
De’An Bass	FEMA (Holt Community)	Charlotte Koestler	Witt Associates
Paul Fay	Witt Associates	Alicia Reed	AEMA
Steve Pratt	Witt Associates	Allen Bowen	USDA RD
Michael German	HUD – Birmingham	Russ Black	Senior Services
Hollis Wormsby	HUD – Birmingham	June	HUD – Birmingham
Charles Franklin	HUD – Community Planning & Development	Art Pearce	Alabama Association of Habitat Affiliates

AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome

- Rocky Milliman, LTCR Coordinator, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

Accept Meeting Notes

- The notes from the July 10, 2012, meeting of the Joint Task Force were approved as written.

FEMA Update

- FEMA’s LTCR Branch Director, Jim Corcoran, reported that steps have been taken to have another Recovery Manager assigned to Phil Campbell, who will assist in Hackleburg as well. The previous Recovery Managers in those areas were demobilized.
- Jim stated that excellent progress was being made in the recovery process with the aid of state, federal and local coordination and collaboration.

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Field Reports from RMs (Current projects/activities include):

CORDOVA

- Pete Gozza has assumed the role of Recovery Manager in Cordova since Jim Corcoran was transferred to Montgomery to serve as the LTCR Branch Director.
- Meetings continue among key players with respect to finalizing the demolition of downtown buildings

HACKLEBURG

- Downtown design guidelines are complete. The guidelines are intended for possible inclusion in the redevelopment for Hackleburg's downtown.

HOLT

- Holt's Long-Term Community Recovery Committee – HOLT in Action – has formed a nonprofit corporation and has elected its first nonprofit board of directors.
- New Foundry Creative Center – economic development project
 - Shelton State Community College and Stillman College both are interested in the project. The University of Alabama has already committed to helping with the project.
 - Cheryl Morgan of Auburn University Urban Studio offered her group's services to test the facility for uses and create preliminary designs. The board is contemplating how Urban Studio's availability affects other aspects of the project. If the group chooses to move forward before Morgan's students are available, Morgan will help recruit interested design professionals for the project.
- Greening Holt – The new board has requested an extension of its \$8,000 grant from Tombigbee RC&D to allow for planting in November, January and February. The request is still pending.
- Housing – HOLT in Action is having difficulty making inroads into housing community and accessing CDBG funding for housing projects.
 - The Tuscaloosa County Housing Authority is not interested in rental projects.
 - The Holt In Action group has contacted Community Service Programs of West Alabama to schedule a meeting to ensure that Holt residents participate in their intake and case management process in order to be considered for single family housing rebuilds/repairs.
- HOLT in Action will sponsor several "Be Ready" events in September:
 - A Be Ready Open House at the community meeting on September 4th,
 - A Be Ready football game at the high school, and
 - A Be Ready Sunday at the local churches.
- HOLT in Action is partnering with UA's Community Service Center and Holt Community Partnership to sponsor a Holt Community Cleanup Day Saturday, August 25, 2012.

PHIL CAMPBELL

- Development and design guidelines for the downtown are complete.

RAINSVILLE/DEKALB COUNTY

- The Recovery Manager continues to work on the development of DeKalb County's LTCR group and is actively seeking someone to assume the leadership responsibilities of the group.

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- The Recovery Manager and Carrie Lea toured Hackleburg's Housing Resource Center and met with Mike Shafer about partnerships, parameters and potential for replicating a housing resource center in DeKalb County.

Congressional Delegation Meeting

- Rocky Milliman reported that he and Director Byard met with Alabama's congressional delegation in Washington DC on July 11 to discuss the possibility of obtaining additional year end funding for recovery. He pointed out that FEMA funding cuts off in October and there are still unmet needs as a result of the April 27 tornadoes.
- The delegation asked that requests for support come from the State directly and include needs for regional projects and not individual/single projects.
- When dealing with the congressional delegation, Jim Byard (ADECA) has been identified by the state as the point of contact to coordinate future requests for support.

Witt Associates – Update (Bill Lokey)

- Three of the four working groups have been established: Housing, Economic Development and Philanthropy. Each of them met during the month of August. Mr. Lokey will be establishing and leading the fourth group---Infrastructure.
- Witt staff continued to work on goals and objectives for Alabama's Long-Term Community Recovery Strategic Plan.
- Mr. Lokey will attend a meeting this afternoon (8/23/12) with five bankers who are members of the Alabama Recovery Coalition (ARC) for the financial sector. He will discuss potential investments on housing or whether the group would provide long term funding for recovery to assist those with stressed mortgages.

Witt's Working Groups – Update

Housing Working Group (Led by Paul Fay)

- The group met on August 9 with several participants. Those unable to participate did follow-up with Paul Fay.
- A challenge for the Working Group is to bring in representatives from all public housing authorities to be part of the dialogue.
- The members were asked to identify what they plan to accomplish in the next 30 days.

Economic Development Working Group (Led by Charlotte Koestler)

- The Economic Development Working Group met by conference call on August 9.
- The group identified current needs in the affected areas that should be considered for inclusion in Alabama's Long-Term Community Recovery Strategic Plan.
- The next meeting will be held on September 12.

Philanthropics/Private Non-profits Working Group (Led by Steve Pratt)

- The Philanthropy Working Group met on August 16.
- Various community and national foundations worked together for several months via meetings and conference calls to coordinate the many early activities of foundations.

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- The Jessie Ball DuPont Fund developed a document, “Creating Order from Chaos” that outlines funding opportunities for foundations to consider following a disaster.
- Group members were encouraged to offer suggestions as to which foundations could best fund the various types of projects in the affected areas. In addition, they were asked to present ideas on how to overcome the challenges that exist in reaching out to foundations.

Updates to Current Programs & Support Being Provided to the Communities

- EMA reported that it continues to process voluminous applications for construction of individual and community safe rooms. Because safe rooms are a priority, other applications for planning, drainage, flood mitigation, etc., will be processed after the safe room applications.
- EMA has dispersed funds for the purchase of Alert and Notification Systems and Back-up Power Generators. Approximately 3.7 million was expended for each program, although there is still a shortage in providing generators to all the communities needing them.
- HUD’s Birmingham CPD Division has approved and returned all the local action plans it has received with the exception of Jefferson County. According to HUD staff, Tuscaloosa is on track to complete restoration of its HUD housing by next year.
- ADECA’s Community and Economic Development Division (CED) held its final meeting on Friday, August 17 in Cullman to inform potential grantees of the requirements and deadlines for submitting applications for the CDBG supplemental funding for recovery. Applications will be accepted through October 31, 2012. (See ADECA’s website for specific deadlines)
- ADECA’s Workforce Development Division (WDD) outlined some of its activities in support of the recovery effort. Staff have: worked to identify counties without a family service center; researched resources that might potentially fund some of the projects on Witt Associates’ list of projects to be completed; and researched the DOL endorsed “Crossroads Career Network” for a faith based career center. Other items of interest include the announcement that the Alabama Supercomputer Agency has installed broadband in every secondary school in the state. Ken Hollingsworth noted that rural economic development projects with an education emphasis, as well as state incentive packages for new and expanding industries in rural areas, could tie in installation of broadband. Lastly, he informed the task force that Nisa Miranda at the University of Alabama was developing a resource directory.
- ADECA’s Energy Division (ED) encouraged the group to view its web page at <http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/energy/Pages/default.aspx> to ascertain what funding is available for energy related projects.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2012. A notice will be emailed to task force members approximately 7 to 10 days prior to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.